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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Gordon R. Bennett, Chairman

James J. Flaherty, Commissioner UCC Building—P.O. Box 1728—Helena, Montana Walter H. McLeod, Commissioner

PL 290

FEBRUARY, 1969

FORCE OF WINTER SHOWS IN JANUARY JOB TOTALS

JANUARY JOBS DECLINE 6,500—The grip of Montana's severest winter of the past ten years was the main force behind a 6,500 job loss in January. Prolonged periods of below zero temperatures and deep snow left their mark on a variety of outdoor activities including construction, logging, oil fields, and agriculture. Another contributing factor to January's job total changes was the adjustment of trade and service work forces following the end of the holiday buying season. Estimates compiled by the Montana Unemployment Compensation Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found 191,100 wage earners on non-farm payrolls at mid-January. Despite the hard pressures of winter, this job total was the highest ever recorded for the month of January.

SEVEN INDUSTRY GROUPS IN SEASONAL CHANGES—Employment in trade firms, down 2,500 from the December total, was at the head of the list in job adjustment for the winter season. Contract construction had 1,600 fewer workers on January payrolls than in December. A drop of 1,100 jobs in manufacturing was almost equally divided between the durable and the non-durable goods group. Employment in government was down seasonally by 600. Other over-the-month declines occurred in the service industries, and the transportation, utilities and communications group, down 300 each. There were 100 less workers on payrolls of finance, insurance, and real estate firms. Mining, with a total employment figure of

5,500, did not change from the prior month.

UCC CLAIM PEAK PAST—Unemployment claims reached the peak for this year the week ended January 31 when there were 9,223 claims. In the following three weeks claim declines reduced this total by 820. Barring more unfavorable weather, weekly claim declines should be common from now on with the start of the early spring work season. The annual spring break-up which plagues the lumber industry every year will create some new unemployment in timbered areas of the state. Job expansion in all other groups, however, will be sufficient to overpower these temporary declines and unemployment claims will continue the downward trend.

STATE UCC CHECKS TOTAL \$1.4 MILLION—For the first eight weeks of this year, \$1,406,798 in state unemployment insurance checks have helped to stabilize Montana's winter economy. Most of this money is spent for food, shelter, clothing, medical expenses and other necessary living expenses. In addition, federal unemployment insurance payments to unemployed federal civilian workers and ex-servicemen amounted to \$164,177 for the same period. Unemployment insurance claimants represented 46.5 percent of the state's total registered jobseekers. On February 21, 1969, there was a balance of \$23,243,302 in Montana's UCC trust fund.

WIN IS ON THE WAY—About 200 persons currently receiving welfare payments are now on the way toward improving their economic status. Five

local Work Incentive (WIN) program projects now active in Montana are dedicated to that purpose. The WIN program, which became operative in Montana on October 1, 1968, stems from an amendment to the Social Security Act. A federal-state program venture, WIN is financed 80 percent from federal funds and 20 percent from state funds, with the state portion provided by the Welfare Department.

The program aim is to reduce the rapidly rising costs of public welfare by emphasizing rehabilitation and work training. It is directed exclusively to welfare recipients under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The goal is to move welfare recipients, and out-of-school youth age 16 years and older, from the welfare rolls into permanent employment. For program enrollees identified as job ready, the Montana State Employment Service will intensify efforts for job placement or on-the-job training opportunities. Others will receive a two to four week job orientation before moving on to training or jobs. Some may be enrolled in basic education classes to prepare them for later placement in training or job programs.

Enrollee totals in each of the five counties is as follows: Cascade, 81; Yellowstone, 44; Missoula, 37; Silver Bow, 28; and Lewis and Clark, 9. The Aid to Families with Dependent Children in these five counties represents 50% of the total AFDC caseload in the state. So far, 24 persons have been removed from the welfare rolls because of their participation in the Work Incentive program.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(Per 100 Employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967
All Manufacturing	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.1	2.7	3.8	3.3	5.6	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.2	.8	3.0
Durable Goods	3.0	2.9	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.2	3.7	3.8	6.9	1.9	2.3	2.9	.6	.7	3.1
Primary Metal	2.1	2.4	.3	1.4	1.7	.2	3.9	2.5	2.4	1.4	1.5	.9	.4	*	.8
Nondurable Goods	2.8	2.3	3.5	2.6	1.2	3.5	4.2	2.1	3.4	1.2	.6	.3	2.5	1.1	2.7
All Mining	3.0	2.9	9.2	1.4	1.3	4.6	2.7	7.4	3.3	1.3	2.9	1.4	.4	3.0	1.0
Metal Mining	2.6	2.1	1.8	.4	.2	*	1.7	2.3	4.9	.4	.8	1.3	.1	*	1.9

* Less than .05.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for Jan.

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—Thirty-five new hires in smelter operations accounted for 75% of January job placements. Moderate hiring occurred in timber and wood products operations, and in private households. Bad weather still kept most outdoor jobs at bare minimums. Layoffs at small mining operations at Garrison and Philipsburg noted.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—A record snow and cold spell practically stopped all outdoor construction, and slowed job movement in many industries. A labor dispute at three major oil refineries added to new unemployment with 600 workers initially affected. Resumption of work at one refinery reduced that number to 400. Sugar beet refining activities at Billings and Hardin still employ 600 workers with work to extend until late February. Moderate farm labor demand.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Tri-dent—Work on some major building projects kept on schedule despite the pressures of winter. Completion of \$1½ million 123 unit motel expected March 1; staffing expected to require 60 people. The \$90,000 hospital addition now about 25% done. Trade and service job totals at low point of year. Logging and sawmill operations, although at mercy of bad weather, kept fairly active.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Job trends in most industry groups at winter low, with construction and other outdoor work most affected. Practically no demand for farm and ranch help. New claims for unemployment insurance increased by 175 during January, reflecting winter downturn in most industries.

CUT BANK—Temperatures of 40 below zero and deep snow were hardly conducive to an active labor market in January. All outdoor work came to a standstill and activity in trade and service was cut back sharply. Job trends in industry and agriculture will remain passive until the weather moderates.

DILLON—January hiring in industry and farm was limited by snow and cold weather. Work on five mile highway section, and an irrigation canal was suspended until weather clears. Work continued on \$750,000 grade school and a \$190,000 library building.

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Jan. '69	Dec. '68	Jan. '69	Dec. '68 to Jan. '69	Jan. '68 to Jan. '69
Civilian Work Force	255.6	265.0	254.0	-9.4	1.6
Total Employment	241.6	253.4	234.6	-11.8	7.0
Total Nonag. Employment	218.8	226.7	208.0	-7.9	10.8
(Nonag. Wage and Salary)	191.1	197.6	181.6	-6.5	9.5
Total Agr. Employment	22.8	26.7	26.6	-3.9	-3.8
Labor Management Disputes	.7	*	3.6	.7	-2.9
Total Unemployment	13.3	11.6	15.8	1.7	-2.5
Percent Unemployment	5.2	4.4	6.2	—	—
U. S. Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.1	4.0	—	—

*Less Than 50

Logs now being stockpiled for opening of new lumber mill early in March.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Winter weather plus a general economic slowdown kept hiring at minimum during January. Force reductions were common in most industry groups. Only slight demand existed for farm and ranch help. Contract award to AVCO Corporation for use of air base has generated interest and new job applications but no hiring as yet.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Bad weather brought increase in new unemployment and in jobless claims. Most outdoor work closed down, but some work schedules being maintained on high school addition and mental retardation center. Trade and service firms in slack periods due to winter business letdown. Some farm labor demand for livestock feeding.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Reflecting the severity of this winter, new work applications increased by 62% during January. New claims for unemployment insurance were up by 300. Most of the new unemployment came from outdoor industries. The bulk of January job placements were made in trade and service firms. Job activity in other industries were at seasonal lows. Fifty farm job placements were chiefly for livestock feeding and care.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Overall economic status of community at good stead despite some weather caused downturn in outdoor work. Logging continued fairly active and most lumber mills operated on steady schedules. Increased hiring noted at potato cellars, but only light demand for other agricultural operations.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Employment outlook on the bleak side as bad weather keeps all construction in restraint. Main street firms reducing work forces to very minimums until spring upturn. Half of January job

placements were short time. Moderate level of farm hiring.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Increased business volume generated by the 1969 Legislature created more worker demand, mainly for food service and clerical workers. Most construction suspended by bad weather, including work on \$2 million in senior citizens housing projects. Good farm labor demand developed for livestock feeders.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish—Majority of building construction workers idled by bad weather. Job totals in main street trade and service firms dropped in line with the season. Heavy layoffs occurred in cafes and supper clubs. A good lumber and plywood market made for increased hiring in the timber industry. Demand for livestock feeders comprised main farm labor activity.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—No appreciable change noted in farm and industry job activity from the prior month. The situation will remain static until weather clears. Work on missile remodification projects, employing 350, is chief activity on current labor market scene.

LIBBY—Winter layoffs on Libby Dam work projects caused most of area's new unemployment during January. Big surplus of all construction classifications waiting for jobs to develop. Job totals hold firm in trade, logging, and lumber mills. No demand for farm help.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Snow and cold weather left their mark on most industries during January. Main street business slow with only replacement hiring. Logging and mill operations on unsteady schedules depending on weather. Normal farm labor demand.

MILES CITY, Baker, Broadus, Ekalaka, Jordan, Terry—A long spell of winter weather depressed labor mar-

TEN YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	162.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	174.4	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	180.2	185.4	195.6	198.2	199.2	195.8	191.2	187.6	186.9	186.7
1967	179.9	178.5	180.1	184.7	188.1	199.1	201.1	197.8	196.3	193.7	192.2	191.0	190.2
1968	181.6	181.5	183.7	190.0	195.4	203.9	204.3	206.6	203.5	199.5	196.7	197.6	195.3
1969	191.1*												

*Preliminary Estimate. Employment estimates for 1967 and 1968 revised on basis of more complete reports. Industrial detail from Jan. 1967 to date will be supplied in future supplement to this publication.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for Jan.

ket activity in most industrial sectors. Heavy demand developed for livestock feeders with workers being recruited from other areas. More than half of the non-farm January job placements were short term.

MISSOULA, Arlee, Drummond, Superior — Other than the continuing shortage of loggers, labor demand in most industries was limited by bad weather. A good backlog of construction projects is in suspense waiting for better weather. Business firms in post holiday slowdown with little new hiring activity in evidence. Farm labor demand up with increased orders for livestock feeders.

POLSON — Area economy in good shape sparked by active trends in woods and sawmill operations. The reopened plywood mill now operating on three shift basis with 60 employed. Main street trade and service volume at good levels. Work in potato cellars makes some temporary jobs.

SHELBY — A prolonged spell of snow and cold weather created new unemployment not only in outdoor work but in trade and service sectors as well. Only slight demand for farm and ranch help during January. No chance of improvement in job picture expected until weather conditions turn for the better.

SIDNEY — A record breaking winter season clamped down on most outdoor endeavors during January. Area economy, however shows healthy conditions. Claim for unemployment benefits are at all time low. Construction work continued on some enclosed buildings. Sugar beet refining operations still in progress.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs — January job trends were on the quiet side with bad weather taking its toll of workers in some outdoor work. Logging kept fairly stable despite some temporary layoffs. Most lumber mills maintained high levels of employment. Constant job totals hold in trade and service firms with little new hiring occurring. Farm labor demand slow.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey — Industry job totals, now at a winter low, expected to show little improvement until mid-March. Weather-caused job declines most evident in construction and oil fields. Interior work continues on some enclosed building projects. Trade and service employment stays at good volume with only light hiring patterns.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in cooperation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			NET CHANGE	
	Jan. 1969 (2)	Dec. 1968 (3)	Jan. 1968	Dec. '68 to Jan. '69	Jan. '68 Against Jan. '69
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	191,100	197,600	181,600	-6,500	9,500
Manufacturing	23,200	24,300	20,900	-1,100	2,300
Durable goods	15,100	15,700	12,500	- 600	2,600
Lumber and timber products	8,500	8,800	8,700	- 300	- 200
Primary metal ind's.	4,500	4,500	1,500	00	3,000
Other (2)	2,100	2,400	2,300	- 300	- 200
Nondurable goods	8,100	8,600	8,400	- 500	- 300
Food and kindred products	4,800	4,700	4,700	100	100
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,800	1,700	- 100	00
Petroleum refining	500	1,000	1,000	- 500	- 500
Other (3)	1,100	1,100	1,000	00	100
Mining	5,500	5,500	3,900	00	1,600
Metal mining	2,700	2,700	1,100	00	1,600
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	900	900	00	00
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,900	1,900	1,900	00	00
Contract Construction	9,500	11,100	8,700	1,600	800
Contractors, building construction	2,500	2,600	2,700	- 100	- 200
Contractors, other than building	3,100	4,200	2,900	-1,100	200
Contractors, special trade	3,900	4,300	3,100	- 400	800
Transportation and utilities	17,300	17,600	17,100	- 300	200
Interstate railroads	6,600	6,800	6,800	- 200	- 200
Transportation except railroads	4,700	4,800	4,300	- 100	400
Utilities including communication	6,000	6,000	6,000	00	00
Trade	44,800	47,300	42,300	-2,500	2,500
Wholesale trade	9,100	9,400	8,600	- 300	500
Retail trade	35,700	37,900	33,700	-2,200	2,000
General merchandise and apparel	7,300	8,000	6,300	- 700	1,000
Food and liquor stores	5,500	5,500	5,400	00	100
Eating and drinking establishments	8,000	8,700	7,700	- 700	300
Automotive and filling stations	7,700	7,700	7,300	00	400
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	7,200	8,000	7,000	- 800	200
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,600	7,700	7,300	- 100	300
Services and miscellaneous	29,200	29,500	28,400	- 300	800
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,300	3,400	2,800	- 100	500
Personal services	2,300	2,300	2,300	00	00
Other (4)	23,600	23,800	23,300	- 200	300
Government	54,000	54,600	53,000	- 600	1,000
Federal	11,200	11,500	11,700	- 300	- 500
State and local	42,800	43,100	41,300	- 300	1,500
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,600	24,700	22,200	-1,100	1,400
Non-Agri. Total	3,300	3,400	2,500	- 100	800
Manufacturing	1,600	2,000	1,500	- 400	100
Contract construction	2,100	2,000	2,000	100	100
Transportation and utilities	6,300	6,700	6,000	- 400	300
Trade (retail and wholesale)	1,400	1,500	1,400	- 100	00
Finance, insurance & real estate	3,900	4,000	3,800	- 100	100
Service and miscellaneous (5)	5,000	5,100	5,000	- 100	00
Government	26,600	28,500	26,500	-1,900	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	26,600	28,500	26,500	-1,900	100
Non-Agri. Total	2,600	3,100	3,000	- 500	- 400
Manufacturing	1,500	1,500	1,500	00	00
Contract construction	2,900	2,900	2,900	00	00
Transportation and utilities	8,700	9,400	8,100	- 700	600
Trade (retail and wholesale)	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Finance, insurance & real estate	4,900	5,000	4,900	- 100	00
Service and miscellaneous (5)	4,600	5,200	4,700	- 600	- 100
Government					

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 630 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,092 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation,

medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY, 1969 AND JANUARY, 1968

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Jan. 1969		Jan. 1968		Jan. 1969		Jan. 1968		January, 1969				January, 1968				Wk. 1-31	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1969	1968
Anaconda	149	47	116	35	466	136	302	107	52	7	59	23	20	6	26	10	193	225
Billings	650	281	732	245	2,010	835	2,428	881	342	38	380	156	367	45	412	166	1,485	1,343
Bozeman	319	69	266	46	509	159	479	136	133	31	164	23	145	14	159	36	302	284
Butte	340	70	316	99	1,125	349	1,528	519	37	1	38	10	23	1	24	6	664	944
Cut Bank	121	42	94	35	478	180	342	130	25	2	27	4	18	1	19	9	244	247
Dillon	75	26	88	34	144	55	203	78	27	33	60	27	19	28	47	26	80	128
Glasgow	182	54	141	41	244	80	223	61	36	5	41	9	56	7	63	11	179	166
Glendive	71	20	160	44	141	46	255	68	47	5	52	21	44	24	68	16	106	126
Great Falls	609	160	667	173	1,837	645	2,244	670	303	50	353	89	283	42	325	93	1,238	1,112
Hamilton	90	29	109	41	275	105	310	112	28	11	39	6	19	8	27	9	234	207
Havre	113	38	159	62	272	122	305	132	61	16	77	24	50	11	61	17	227	215
Helena	297	85	383	110	918	320	917	310	172	16	188	33	142	6	148	29	543	510
Kallispell	221	62	373	131	1,186	392	1,089	386	120	10	130	27	104	5	109	28	934	858
Lewistown	66	19	63	12	241	94	254	81	30	42	72	18	27	37	64	8	183	174
Libby	291	126	203	77	818	340	697	203	63	—	63	32	29	—	29	5	698	673
Livingston	93	26	169	49	338	102	368	104	75	9	84	36	65	8	73	39	273	248
Miles City	95	32	117	37	205	61	268	80	27	59	86	32	44	24	68	22	169	163
Missoula	695	203	710	137	1,734	583	1,678	631	165	18	183	56	173	3	176	63	835	731
Polson	90	32	73	22	254	90	273	103	44	1	45	17	29	2	31	9	183	209
Shelby	61	23	55	10	212	89	175	68	29	2	31	10	30	2	32	8	127	114
Sidney	54	11	48	14	116	30	135	36	32	13	45	15	22	19	41	5	67	96
Thompson Falls	49	14	38	12	171	55	169	55	13	—	13	4	17	—	17	6	157	109
Wolf Point	51	14	66	26	198	52	244	89	12	5	17	3	9	2	11	3	102	144
Billings YOC	235	18	198	14	551	32	504	29	94	2	96	8	88	6	94	7	—	—
TOTALS	5,017	1,501	5,344	1,506	14,443	4,952	15,390	5,069	1,967	376	2,343	683	1,823	301	2,124	631	9,223	9,026

*Includes 817 Claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 857 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in cooperation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. (1) 1969	Dec. (2) 1968	Jan. 1968	Jan. (1) 1969	Dec. (2) 1968	Jan. 1968	Jan. (1) 1969	Dec. (2) 1968	Jan. 1968
All Manufacturing	\$132.99	\$138.93	\$129.20	40.3	42.1	40.0	\$3.30	\$3.30	\$3.23
Durable Goods	132.68	139.20	130.65	40.7	42.7	40.7	3.26	3.26	3.21
Primary Metals	130.65	130.65	*	40.2	40.2	*	3.25	3.25	*
Nondurable Goods	134.58	140.01	129.23	39.7	41.3	39.4	3.39	3.39	3.28
Food and Kindred Products	125.41	128.29	115.66	41.4	42.2	40.3	3.03	3.04	2.87
All Mining	150.33	149.30	118.91	43.7	43.4	36.7	3.41	3.44	3.24
Metal Mining	143.82	144.24	*	42.3	42.3	*	3.40	3.41	*
Communications and Utilities	133.66	130.68	118.66	41.0	39.6	38.4	3.26	3.30	3.09

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

* Data not available due to copper strike.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
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